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President Nguyen Van Thieu announced today that as a result of further improvements during the past six months in the equipment, training and leadership of the Vietnamese regular and territorial forces and the People's Self Defense Forces, the people of the Republic of Viet-Nam are ready to take over additional responsibilities from the United States forces for the defense of their country. President Thieu stated that he and President Nixon have been in frequent consultation on this subject during the past two months. The Chief of the General Staff, General Cao Van Vien, and General Abrams have been staffing out the details of the next reductions, so that the turnover of responsibility will be smoothly and effectively carried out.

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